

Application No.: 09/607,845
Filing Date: June 30, 2000

REMARKS

Claims 6 and 43-48 are now pending in the present application, Claim 49 having been canceled without prejudice. Applicant reserves the right to pursue the canceled claim or the scope of the previously unamended claims at a later date. In response to the Office Action transmitted December 12, 2008, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider the above-captioned application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following comments.

Acknowledgement of Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant notes with appreciation the allowance of Claims 6 and 43-48.

Rejections

The Examiner rejected Claim 49 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,632,751 to Piraka. Applicant does not agree with the rejection. However, Applicant has canceled without prejudice Claim 49 solely to expedite issuance of the allowed claims. Applicants reserve the right to pursue Claim 49 in the future.

No Disclaimers or Disavowals

Although the present communication may include alterations to the application or claims, or characterizations of claim scope or referenced art, Applicant is not conceding in this application that previously pending claims are not patentable over the cited references. Rather, any alterations or characterizations are being made to facilitate expeditious prosecution of this application. Applicant reserves the right to pursue at a later date any previously pending or other broader or narrower claims that capture any subject matter supported by the present disclosure, including subject matter found to be specifically disclaimed herein or by any prior prosecution. Accordingly, reviewers of this or any parent, child or related prosecution history shall not reasonably infer that Applicant has made any disclaimers or disavowals of any subject matter supported by the present application.

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CONCLUSION

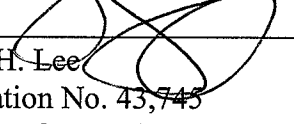
The undersigned has made a good faith effort to respond to all of the rejections in the case, and to place the claims and conditions for immediate allowance. Nevertheless, if any undeveloped issues remain or if any issues require clarification, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call Applicant's attorney in order to resolve such issue promptly.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: 2-11-09

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